

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4459

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016

Foreign Funded Consultants

Raju Shri Gokaraju Ganga

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has engaged foreign funded consultants/professionals working within the Government and having access to confidential information and data and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has issued order to end term contracts of such foreign funded consultants in a bid to bring more transparency in public-policy making and also to clampdown on outside influence on domestic policies through international agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has identified any foreign funded NGO, which is deeply penetrated into the Government policies and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Consultants are engaged by Ministries/Departments of Government of India from bilateral partners/ multilateral organisations in accordance with the extant guidelines. In terms of current procedure, the Consultants sign a Confidentiality and Ethics & Integrity agreement with the Ministries/Departments of the Government.

(b) The Government had set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) in April 2015 to revisit the matter of engagement of Consultants/Advisors from bilateral partners/ multilateral organisations. The IMC reviewed the method of engagement of Consultants by various Ministries/Departments, including the terms and conditions of engagement and the need/justification for the same. After due analysis of the information received, the IMC made its recommendations about the process by which engagement/continuation of such Consultants is to be regulated. Suitable guidelines regulating engagement/continuation of the services of Consultants were issued on 29.12.2015. A copy of the guidelines is available on Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs website at link: http://finmin.nic.in/the_ministry/dept_eco_affairs/dea.asp

Contdâ€¦.2/-

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(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs is mandated to administer the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA 2010), for regulating the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution by the Indian associations. As and when reports are received against any association for alleged violation of the Act, action is initiated against the alleged violators after following due process as prescribed in the FCRA, 2010 and FCRR, 2011. Mandate is to look into acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution by Indian NGOs for any activities in violation of FCRA, 2010. Action against such violation is taken after conducting inspection of the records and accounts giving due opportunity to the concerned association/NGO. For Registration and Monitoring of foreign donors there are no direct provisions in the FCRA, 2010 and FCRR, 2011.